Founded in 1997, the Children and Youth Center (CYC) provides space for the children and youth of Shatila (Chatila) refugee camp, to develop their potential. The CYC is a non-governmental organisation, and caters to all nationalities residing within the camp, including many Syrian and Lebanese children. We believe all children and youth have the right to learn and play, in safety.

Foremost the CYC is a lifeline for many of Shatila camp’s most disadvantaged youth. The CYC employs the child-to-child teaching methodology, and empowers the individual with child and human rights knowledge. We work to help create aware and responsible future generations that are able and determined, to positively contribute to their community, and to society as a whole.

We work under the International Child and Human Rights Convention in cooperation with UNICEF, UNESCO, Save the Children (Sweden), and other child protectors, to defend the child’s right to learn and play in safety. Added support comes from a variety of other interested organisations, and individuals.
The Guesthouse is run by the Children and Youth Center, Shatila.

The CYC Guesthouse is located inside the Palestinian refugee camp of Shatila. It offers reasonable accommodation to visitors and volunteers who are interested in finding out more about Palestinian life in the camp.

2012 price is 15 $ for each person per night

The Guesthouse offers

- 5 bedrooms with bunk-bed accommodations for a maximum of 15 people.
- Fully equipped kitchen so guests can cook their own meals
- Washing machine
- Living room with TV and DVD
- Computer use
- Camp tours guided by the youths of the center
- Group and long-term rates available

The aims of the Guesthouse

- To encourage communication and friendship between the children and youths of Shatila and the guests
- To offer a place to stay for people who would like to visit Shatila
- To fundraise to support the Children and Youth Centers activities

“The idea is [...] through conversation with the camp residents and the experience of daily routines, guests get a personalized look at life in a refugee camp.”

The Daily Star Newspaper